



# COMMISSION ON INSURANCE

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Scott J. Svonkin  
**Chairperson**

Daniel Falcon  
**Vice-Chairperson**

Barry R. Binder  
William K. Callagy  
Michael G. Cheung  
Rickey Ivie  
Don Lee  
Curren D. Price, Jr.  
Rose Reets  
Patricia Torres

### MINUTES

Meeting of October 9, 2003  
830 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Commissioners Present:** Dan Falcon, Don Lee, Curren Price, Scott Svonkin,

**Commissioners Absent:** Barry Binder, William Callagy, Michael Cheung, Rickie Ivie,  
Rose Reets, Patricia Torres

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Svonkin called the Committee of the Whole to order at 10:09 a.m.

### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Svonkin thanked the special guests for attending this meeting and proceeded with the primary topic for the meeting.

### DISCUSSION OF INSURANCE CLAIMS COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING FAMILIES OF HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

Chairperson Svonkin introduced California Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi who discussed the State's efforts after the United States Supreme Court ruling of American Insurance Association et al. v. Garamendi, Insurance Commissioner, State of California (2003) 539 U.S.

Commissioner Garamendi discussed problems faced by claimants when attempting to file claims with International Commission on Holocaust-Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) including not having the proof, i.e. a death certificate, in order to file a claim and not receiving a reasonable settlement offer.

Mitch Kamin, Executive Director, Bet Tzedek, reported on his organization's effort to assist claimants and the impending deadline for filing claims of December 31, 2003. Mr. Kamin requested the assistance of the Commission and the Board of Supervisors in this matter.

Mr. Kamin introduced Roman Rakover, a Holocaust survivor, who provided the Commission with an overview of his attempts to secure compensation and the problems encountered.

Steve Koff, B'nai B'rith, provided the Commission with an overview of his organization's efforts to assist claimants applying for compensation.

In the course of the discussion Chairperson Svonkin requested that staff organize a

teleconference meeting to discuss and potentially adopt a motion to the Board of Supervisors recommending the Board of Supervisors:

1. Support United States H.R. 1210 (Waxman) The Holocaust Victims Insurance Relief Act of 2003.
2. Send a letter to President Bush requesting his support of United States H.R. 1210.
3. Invite other governmental bodies to join the Commission in support of United States H.R. 1210.
4. Authorize the Commission to participate in a series of public forums to provide information on the December 31, 2003 deadline for surviving family members to file a claim for compensation.

#### **COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE UPDATES AND PLANNING**

There were none.

#### **MATTERS NOT ON POSTED AGENDA (To be placed on the agenda for discussion at a future meeting)**

There were none.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

John Garamendi, California Insurance Commissioner  
Steve Koff, B'nai B'rith  
Mitch Kamin, Executive Director, Bet Tzedek  
Michael Freeman, Bet Tzedek  
Roman Rakover, Holocaust Survivor  
Martha Littlefield, Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
Ken Wales, Executive Office, Board of Supervisors